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SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1896.

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BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.*

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT.

My Lord Mayor, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have first to express my deep sense of gratitude for the great honor conferred upon me by my election to the high office which I occupy to-day. It came upon me as a great surprise. The engrossing claims of surgery have prevented me for many years from attending the meetings of the Association, which excludes from her sections medicine in all its branches. This severance of the art of healing from the work of the Association was right and indeed inevitable. Not that medicine has little in common with science. The surgeon never performs an operation without the aid of anatomy and physiology; and in what is often the most difficult part of his duty, the selection of the right course to follow, he, like the physician, is guided by pathology, the science of the nature of disease, which, though very difficult from the complexity of its subject-matter, has made during the last half-century astonishing progress; so that the practice of medicine in every department is becoming more and more based on science as distinguished from empiricism. I propose on the present occasion to bring before you some illustrations of the

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the responsible editor, Prof. J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

* Liverpool meeting, beginning September 16, 1896.